



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly praises Gov. Richardson's line-item veto that saved \$536,000 in Navajo Nation projects

SANTA FE, N.M. – Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly praised N.M. Gov. Bill Richardson on Friday for using his line-item veto authority to save a half million dollars for Navajo Nation capital outlay projects.

Of some \$881,000 in cuts approved by the New Mexico legislature, Gov. Richardson kept \$536,000 in Navajo projects moving forward.

"I urged with Gov. Richardson and Lt. Gov. Denish to continue efforts to collaborate with the Navajo Nation on issues related to transportation, health and human services, and capital improvement projects," Vice President Shelly said. "This shows the benefit and precision of the line-item veto, and I appreciate the governor's saving of projects important to Navajo people."

The Vice President said New Mexico and the Navajo Nation have made notable accomplishments such as completing a CIP Master Plan, moving forward on Highway 491 construction, and making efforts to insure low-income Navajos through Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

"Working with Senator Pinto, Representative Jeff, and Indian Affairs Secretary Alvin Warren, the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development has done its work

and helped save 64 percent of CIP funds from being deauthorized and reverted back to the State of New Mexico," he said. "These projects are important to Navajo



Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly, far right, praised N.M. Gov. Bill Richardson on Friday for using his line-item veto authority to save a half million dollars for Navajo Nation capital outlay projects. From left to right is N.M. Indian Affairs Secretary Alvin Warren, the governor, and N.M. Sen. John Pinto.
Sherrick Roanhorse Photo

Nation chapters, and I commend the hard working staff of the Navajo Nation for its commitment and the Navajo Nation Council for their support."

In his message to New Mexico Speaker of the House Ben Lujan, Gov. Richardson said, "I have vetoed nine sections that would have deauthorized appropriations that will enhance the ability of the Navajo Nation and its chapters to provide and maintain basic human services and critical infrastructure."

Navajo Nation-specific projects saved through Gov. Richardson's line-item veto include:

- \$221,000 for Navajo Nation Road Maintenance and Yards.
- \$100,000 for Crownpoint Chapter's Veterans Building.
- \$50,000 for Coyote Canyon Chapter's Preschool Building Planning.
- \$45,000 for Sanostee Chapter's New Building Feasibility Study.
- \$30,000 for Chichiltah Chapter Building Improvements and Equipment Purchase.
- \$30,000 for Iyanbito Chapter Repairs.

- \$30,000 for Manuelito Chapter Repairs.
- \$30,000 for Tseyatoh Chapter Repairs.

During his visit to the Roundhouse, Vice President Shelly addressed the New Mexico Legislature during a joint session and held separate meetings with Gov. Bill Richardson and Lt. Gov. Diane Denish.

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